



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIR's](#) | [Help](#)

13 January 2003

PHL40786.E

Philippines: Illegal activities undertaken by the Hong Kong Triads and 14kts; whether there is state protection available to citizens who are approached to assist the triads in these activities, particularly bank fraud
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Numerous articles name the Hong Kong Triad in connection to the trafficking of the drug *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride), the "poor man's cocaine" (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 15 Aug. 2001), in the Philippines (ibid. 6 Nov. 2002; ibid. 10 Sept. 2001; ibid. 15 Nov. 2001; ibid. 26 Aug. 2000; ibid. 29 Jul. 2000).

A 1 November 2002 raid on a shabu laboratory in Paranaque City, Rizal, was reported to have "crippled the operations" of the Hong Kong Triad in Metro Manila (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 6 Nov. 2002). In referring to the raid, the Southern Police District director stated that the Hong Kong Triad was believed to be behind the laboratory as the chemicals seized were not locally produced (ibid.).

Three articles reported on the seizure of large quantities of shabu believed to have been brought into the country by the Hong Kong Triad (ibid. 5 Nov. 2001; ibid. 29 July 2000; ibid. 26 Aug. 2000). Reporting on the seizure, the 26 August 2000 article stated that Triad criminal groups in Hong Kong were apparently no longer employing Filipinos as their local couriers, but were instead using mainly jobless Chinese (ibid.).

Reporting on allegations made by a civilian agent used by the police to infiltrate the Hong Kong Triad, several articles make reference to possible police involvement with the Hong Kong Triad and drug trafficking in the Philippines (ibid. 31 Aug. 2001; ibid. 4 Sept. 2001; GMA 7 Television 3 Sept. 2001). The agent reportedly stated that the Triad brought in thousands of kilograms of illegal drugs that police officials then sold to Chinese drug lords in the Philippines (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 31 Aug. 2001). Philippine National Police (PNP) officials strongly denied these allegations (ibid.).

In conjunction with announcing that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) would be investigating the "allegation that foreign-based drug syndicates had infiltrated several government agencies," the Presidential Spokesperson warned government employees that they faced "suspension on [the] mere suspicion of involvement in facilitating the entry of illegal drugs" into the Philippines (ibid. 7 Sept. 2001).

Regarding the Triad's involvement in other illegal activities, an October 2002 article reported that the government was investigating the possible involvement of the Hong Kong Triad in the rising piracy rate in the movie and software industries in the Philippines (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 15 Oct. 2002). The Videogram Regulatory Board, a governmental organization charged with curbing video piracy, stated that they believed that organized crime groups were assisting illegal disc makers, "particularly in the purchase of replicating machines" (ibid.).

No reference to the Hong Kong Triad's involvement in any further illegal activities, including bank fraud, in the Philippines, or to the state protection available to those citizens approached to assist the Triads, could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

While no reference could be found to a group call 14kts, one article was found to the operation of group called the 14K Triad in the Philippines (*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 30 Aug. 2001). The 30 August 2001 article reported that the 14K is thought to be "a major source of illegal drugs for the Philippines" (ibid.).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

GMA 7 Television [Quezon City, in Tagalog]. 3 September 2001. "Ex-Police Agent Shows Drug Flow From HK Triad to Police." (FBIS-EAS-2001-0903 3 Sept. 2001/WNC)

Philippine Daily Inquirer [Manila]. 6 November 2002. Christian V. Esguerra. "Shabu Lab Raid Crippled Drug Ring, Police Say." <http://www.inq7.net/met/2002/nov/07/met_3-1.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 15 October 2002. "International Crime Groups Seen Behind Piracy in RP." <http://www.inq7.net/inf/2002/oct/16/inf_1-1.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 15 November 2001. Tonette Orejas and Cesar Villa. "Shabu Worth P668M Seized." <http://www.inq7.net/nat/2001/nov/16/text/nat_3-1-p.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 10 September 2001. Kathy I. Navarro. "Three 'High-Level' Drug Suspects Arrested in Cebu." <http://www.inq7.net/reg/2001/sep/11/reg_6-1-p.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 7 September 2001. Martin P. Marfil. "Philippine Government Employees Warned of Suspension Over Drug Links." (FBIS-EAS-2001-0907 7 Sept. 2001/WNC)

_____. 4 September 2001. Christine Avendano and Armand N. Nocum. "Ex-Narcotics Civilian Agent Links Filipino Senator to Murder, Other Crimes." (FBIS-EAS-2001-0904 4 Sept. 2001/WNC)

_____. 31 August 2001. "Spokesman Says Arroyo 'Has Full Confidence' in Police's Overall Integrity." (FBIS-EAS-2001-0831 31 Aug. 2001/WNC)

_____. 30 August 2001. "Ex-Narcotics Spy Chief Admits 'Rosebud' Link." <http://www.inq7.net/nat/2001/aug/30/nat_1-1.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 15 August 2001. "Cops Arrest 2 Suspected Members of HK Triad." <http://www.inq7.net/brk/2001/aug/15/brkoth_1-1-p.htm> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2003]

_____. 26 August 2000. Arnel Avila. "Quezon Provincial Police Make 'Biggest' Haul of 'Shabu,' Arrest 6 Chinese." (FBIS-CHI-2000-0826 26 Aug. 2000/WNC)

_____. 29 July 2000. Dave M. Veridiano. "Philippine Police Seize Year's Biggest Drug Haul." (FBIS-EAS-2000-072929 Jul. 2000/WNC)

Additional Sources Consulted

IRB databases

NEXIS

Internet sites, including:

Asia Times

BBC

CNN

Philippine Headline News

The Visayan Daily Star

Search engine:

Google

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.